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Auburn Adventist Academy Renovations

by Morna Golke-Bahnsen

Renovations in Witzel Hall, the men's residence at Auburn Adventist Academy, are nearing completion after almost three years of work. "We are committed to finishing this school year," said Keith Hallam, principal. The renovations have involved every room in the dorm including the bathrooms and shower rooms. Only the third floor dorm rooms remain to be done. "Parents are happy to see the project in motion," states boys' head dean, Gary Bale, "The guys in the dorm can see that the school is investing in them and that helps build a positive atmosphere. The guys take pride in the work that they see being done on their behalf."

Witzel Hall was constructed in 1962 and has not been renovated since. When Mr. Bale first saw the dorm three years ago, he knew a renovation project needed to start soon. Enter Pat Mundy, an alumnus and a parent of a young man who spent two years in the dorm. Through Mrs. Mundy's persistence and fundraising, and Mr. Bale's leadership, the project began with converting the showers in the dorms from poles to stalls. As money became available, the dreams of what could be done became reality. Many volunteers and staff continue to help, making progress possible.

To begin, Dale Hyde, industrial arts teacher, drew plans and remodeled the first room. From there the project grew. Alice Kirkman, alumnus and long-time supporter of the school, continues to share her expertise with consulting, interior design and wholesale purchasing connections. Mrs. Mundy's fundraising, and other funding from specially earmarked gifts and annual fund donations have kept the project rolling. Carpenters Bob

Freitas and Lars Martinsen worked through the rooms during the past two summers and school years. "Sometimes the boys had to move so their rooms could be re- done," commented Mr. Bale, "But they didn't seem to mind." Two years ago, the Committee of 100 contributed money for a new intercom system that included wiring for phone lines to each room. Today, Adam Kugel, a senior who owns his own construction company, has agreed to remodel the last floor of rooms. Bob Kilgore, physical education teacher, will continue to lay carpet as the new rooms are finished. With the continued fundraising help of Mrs. Mundy and the ongoing leadership from Mrs. Kirkman, the Witzel Hall renovations are in good hands. Part of the final stage of renovations includes the stairwells, common areas, a ladies' restroom, and Witzel Chapel.

Another major project on Auburn's campus is the locker room and restrooms in the Miller Aquatic Center. Because of safety concerns, the flooring in the locker rooms needed re-doing. Instead of the glazed tile which became very slippery when wet, the floors now sport a carpet-like product that is much safer and also better looking. All the lockers in both locker rooms have been replaced. Funding for this project came in part from the 1997 Alumni Auction, and funds given during the 1997 Alumni Weekend. Bob Kilgore has done much of the work himself with support from Ken Wileman, maintenance director, and Dave Priest.

"People who see the locker rooms are very positive about the changes and the kids are glad for the extra safety. I'm happy to see the progress. We look forward to redoing the restroom areas," states Mr. Kilgore. The plans to rebuild the bathrooms, the more visible aspect of the Aquatic Center, include removing and rebuilding some walls,

increasing the number of stalls available and redoing the plumbing and fixtures. "Time and financing are holding us back at this point," said Mr. Kilgore.

Many people have contributed time, money and prayers towards the renovation projects on campus. Auburn Adventist Academy thanks all those who have made what has been accomplished so far possible, and looks forward to continued support.

Photo caption #1: New lockers and flooring in the Miller Aquatic Center boys' locker room are appreciated by students Samuel Sidler of Seattle, Wash., Raymond Valleau of Mt. Vernon, Wash., Jonathan Howard of Normandy Park, Wash., Benjamin McGauhey of Marysville, Wash., and Jonathan Russell of Eagle Creek, Ore.

Photo caption: Pat Wade Mundy, class of 1969, has been active in fundraising for Auburn's Witzel Hall project. Recently, Pat was also part of the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the school's new gazebo.

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Academy Students Involved in Net'98
by Morna Golke-Bahnsen

During the time when most high school students might have been busy studying for exams, Auburn Adventist Academy students were studying for eternity. On average, 125 students attended the nightly Next Millennium Seminars with Dr. Dwight Nelson. Students also served as greeters, song leaders, and helped in the children's departments. "I thought the lectures were great," said Greta Martin, freshman. "He helped make the messages of Revelation clear," another student said. "Students really appreciated the graphics and the class-like atmosphere of Dr. Nelson's sermons," explained Julie Hill, campus chaplain. "It was neat to see the students focused on developing a relationship with our "forever Friend"," said Lee Venden, Academy pastor.

The students' enthusiasm has affected community members. Ms. Hill tells of a lady who felt impressed to return to church but solidified her decision when warmly welcomed by the students. After watching how intently the students listened to the messages, she decided to pay closer attention herself. "If it means that much to them, it should mean that much to me too," she told Pastor Julie. A man jogging on Sabbath felt God speaking to him to go to church instead of jog. Impressed by the students' friendliness and interest in spiritual things, he has asked for Bible studies. Another thirteen students have been involved in baptismal studies with Pastor Hill and Pastor Lee Venden, going through lessons written by Venden and Thure Martinsen entitled "More About Jesus" (Lessons are available on-line at moreaboutjesus.org.)

The decision to be involved in the Seminars was made two weeks before school started. Julie Hill, campus chaplain, had served on the planning committee and felt

moved to pray about involving the school. As she finished her prayer, there was a knock at her door. Dave Weigley, conference president, and Keith Hallam, school principal, stood there, the two people who Julie needed to speak with and whose support was necessary. "Go for it," was the response. Jon Weigley, student chaplain, coordinated the groundwork by ordering materials, arranging for students to pass out brochures and signing up volunteers. Copies of the programs will be available for future use by students, community members as well as teachers, and leftover materials are being sent with a missionary to Ghana, Africa.

Photo caption: Auburn Adventist Academy students Jonathan Russell of Eagle Creek, Ore.; Lindsey Barker of The Dalles, Ore.; Starlette Pulido of Malahat, B.C.; and Lindsay West of Auburn, Wash. led song service at Net 98 at the academy church.